

commented on by Vigors was certainly obtained in Natal, probably near Port Natal—the present Durban. Sir Andrew Smith was the first authority after Vigors to list a definite locality for *G. p. porphyreolophus*, and as this is supported by the historical and distributional facts now available, I would recommend that the type-locality of *Gallirex porphyreolophus porphyreolophus* (Vigors), 1831, be amended from “Inland of Africa from Algoa Bay”, to “Durban, Natal”.

I am grateful to the Directors of the South African Museum, Cape Town, the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria, and the Albany Museum, Grahamstown, for assistance in connection with this enquiry.

## Five new subspecies from the mountains of Guadalcanal (British Solomon Islands)

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On the Oxford University (Department of Zoology) Expedition to the Solomon Islands, we collected the following new forms in the mountains of Guadalcanal. All were taken between 30th July and 20th August 1953, by native hunters working from Turipava, a camp at 4,100 feet by aneroid altimeter; all are apparently confined to the mist forest, above about 3,500 feet. A full account of the expedition will be published elsewhere, and the types will be deposited at the British Museum (Natural History). We are deeply indebted to Dr. D. Amadon of the American Museum of Natural History, who compared our specimens with the unique material of the Whitney-Rothschild collections and most generously allows us to publish from his notes, and to Professor E. Mayr for his comments.

1. *Coracina caledonica amadonis* new subspecies.

*Description:* nearest to the other Solomons races—*welchmanni* (Tristram 1892), *kulambangrae* Rothschild and Hartert 1916, and *bougainvillei* (Mathews 1928)—but much darker; even the female darker than the males of the other forms, with blacker under tail-coverts. Female with dull black lores, auriculars, chin and throat, and greyish black breast-shield. Male with black of head extending over nape and upper back, belly almost as black as breast-shield. Agrees with the other Solomons races in being strongly dimorphic; but clearly distinct in the posterior extension of black on the breast of the female and the nape of the male. (Comparative description from notes by Dr. Amadon, and from the literature).

*Type:* Expedition No. 459; adult female (some oocytes enlarged); 16th August.

*Soft Parts:* Feet and bill black, iris dark red-brown.

*Measurements:* Weight ♂ 133.5, 136.0 gm.; ♀ 165.0 gm. Wing ♂ 176.0, 180.0 mm.; ♀ 173.0 mm. Tarsus ♂ 28.5, 29.5 mm.; ♀ 28.5 mm. Culmen ♂ 35.0, 36.5 mm.; ♀ 38.5 mm. Bill depth ♂ 13.0, 14.0 mm.; ♀ 14.0 mm.

Owing to the dense and loose plumage of the rump, it would damage the skins to measure the tails of these campephagids.

Named after Dr. Dean Amadon of the American Museum of Natural History, who gave us essential help in describing these forms.

2. *Cichlornis whitneyi turipavae* new subspecies.

*Description:* Like *C. whitneyi* Mayr 1933 (mountains of Santo, New Hebrides) but darker—more sepia brown, less ruddy brown, above and below, especially on breast and throat; tail blackish above and below. Tail probably longer, perhaps with spinier shafts; nasal operculum apparently more inflated, with slitlike nostril extending to anterior end of nasal depression.

*Type:* Expedition No. 448; male (testes small); 15th August.

*Soft Parts:* Feet fuscous brown, bill blackish with whitish streaks on mandible and pale dull yellow gape, iris dark brown.

*Measurements:* See TABLE I.

*Remarks:* The unique type was compared by Dr. Amadon with the type of *whitneyi*, and by us with a series of three females and one male collected on Santo by T. Harrison and A. J. Marshall between 1933 and 1935. Apart from the difference in colour, the resemblance is close. Measurements (TABLE I.) give no basis for separation, except perhaps in tail length.

TABLE I.—Comparative measurements of *Cichlornis w. whitneyi* Mayr and *C. w. turipavae* new subspecies. Measurements of type of *C. w. whitneyi* quoted from Mayr (1933).

	<i>turipavae</i> Type ♂	<i>whitneyi</i> B.M. (N.H.) Nos. 35/10/22—				
		Type ♂	409 ♂	408 ♀	410 ♀	411 ♀
Weight, gm. ....	36.0	—	—	—	—	
Wing, mm. ....	65.5	72	68.5	63.0	60.0	64.5
Tail, mm. ....	76.5+	70+	65.0	57.0+	56.5+	68.0
Tarsus, mm. ....	27.5	28	27.0	25.5	26.0	25.0
Culmen, mm. ....	—	21	20.0	20.0	19.5	18.5
Bill depth, mm. ....	5.0	—	—	—	—	4.5
Middle toe with claw, mm. ....	24.0	27	22.0	22.0	20.0	21.0
Hind toe with claw, mm. ....	20.5	21	18.5	16.5	16.5	17.5
Distances (mm.) between:						
First and longest primary .....	21.0	24	21.5	24.0	21.0	21.5
Longest primary and secondary .....	5.0	8	5.0	7.0	7.5	8.0
Longest and shortest rectrices .....	36.5	38	30.0	—	27.0	38.5

According to Mayr (1933, 1944) and Amadon (*in litt.*), *Cichlornis* is one of a group of geographically representative "genera", including *Büttikofarella* (Timor), *Ortygocichla* (New Britain), *Trichocichla* (Fiji) and *Megalurulus* (New Caledonia); and perhaps *Eremiornis* and others in Australia. Before any of these can be combined, this section of the warblers must be revised. *Cichlornis* agrees best with *Ortygocichla* in its rich

dark colouration and relatively short tail, and the rump feathers appear to be intermediate in softness, length and density between those of *Ortygocichla* and the other genera. However, *Cichlornis* is distinguished from the rest by its very narrow and pointed tail feathers, with spiny shafts (not due to wear).

3. *Turdus poliocephalus sladeni* new subspecies.

*Description:* Like *kulambangrae* Mayr 1941 in colour, but somewhat larger and with longer tail. In size and proportions like *bougainvillei* Mayr 1941, but blacker. (Description from notes by Dr. Amadon) and from the literature.) The three races from the mountains of the Solomons are all brownish black (not sooty black like *samoensis*) and uniformly coloured, without pale or rufous markings on the head or round the vent of adults.

*Type:* Expedition No. 544; adult male (testes enlarged); 20th August.

*Soft Parts:* Feet yellow with shins and claws fuscous-tinged, bill and eyelid yellow, iris dark brown.

*Measurements:* ♂ adults—weight 57.0, 59.0 gm.; wing 107.0, 110.0 mm.; tail 82.0, 87.0 mm.; tarsus 30.5, 31.0; mm. culmen 23.0, 23.5 mm.; bill depth 6.5, 7.0 mm. ♂ juveniles—weight 64.0, 67.5 gm.; wing 110.0, 111.5 mm.; tail 84.5 (2) mm.; tarsus 31.5 (2) mm.; culmen 24.0, 24.5 mm.; bill depth 7.0 mm. Unsexed juvenile—weight 61.0 gm.; wing 105.0 mm.; tail 81.0 mm.; tarsus 30.0 mm.; culmen 23.5 mm.; bill depth 7.0 mm.

*Remarks:* The type has a few dull brown edges to feathers on the belly, while the other adult (testes slightly enlarged) has these pale edges better developed and scattered over most of the underside, and rather pale shafts to many feathers. These juvenile characters are more conspicuous in the younger specimens.

Named after the Percy Sladen Trustees, who supported the expedition most generously.

4. *Zoothera margaretae turipavae* new subspecies.

*Description:* Like *Z. margaretae* Mayr 1935, but smaller; legs and feet blackish, not whitish; upperparts much darker, more blackish brown; spots on upper-wing coverts ochraceous (as in *Z. dauma* subspecies), not white; no buffy subterminal spots on tertials; white patch on wing much smaller and washed with buff; flanks darker and greyer; dark edges to feathers of underparts greyer, wider and less distinct, contrasting less with pale centres; under tail-coverts buffy, not white as in all but one specimen of *Z. margaretae*.

*Type:* Expedition No. 485; male (testes small); 18th August.

*Soft Parts:* Feet greyish fuscous with paler and greyer joints and ivory claws, bill black with greyish base and dull orange gape, iris very dark brown.

*Measurements:* Weight 53.5 gm.; wing 90.5 mm.; tail 63.5 mm.; tarsus 36.5 mm.; culmen 24.5 mm.; bill depth 6.5 mm.

*Remarks:* The unique type has indications of black edges to the feathers of the back, and an ochraceous wash next to the dark edges of the underparts. These characters are shown by juveniles of *Z. m. margaretae*, but our specimen shows little or no sign of the light centres on forehead and nape mentioned by Mayr (1936) as another juvenile character.

5. '*Petroica multicolour dennisi* new subspecies.

*Description:* Like *polymorpha* Mayr 1934, but females with crown darker (more olive brown) and back more blackish. Males not separable from black-headed phase of *polymorpha*, but apparently not polymorphic. (Description from notes by Dr. Amadon and from specimens.)

*Type:* Expedition No. 520; adult female (egg in oviduct); 19th August.

*Soft Parts:* Feet orange-brown, scutes more or less washed with fuscous (especially on toes and lower shins), claws nearly black, soles orange-yellow; bill black above, mandible more fuscous, with pale base, gape dull yellow; iris dark brown.

*Measurements:* ♂ adults—weight 10.0 (3), 10.5, 11.0 (2) gm.; wing 62.5 (2), 63.0, 64.0, 64.5 (2) mm.; tail 39.5, 41.5, 42.0, 43.0, 44.5 mm.; tarsus 16.5 (2), 17.5 (2), 18.0 mm.; culmen 13.5 (2), 14.0 (2), 14.5 mm.; bill depth 3.5, 4.0 (2), 4.5 mm. ♂ (retarded plumage)—weight 10.5 (2), 11.0 gm.; wing 60.5, 61.5, 66.0 mm.; tail 41.5, 42.0 mm.; tarsus 17.0, 17.5 mm.; culmen 14.0 (2) mm.; bill depth 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 mm.; ♀ adults—weight 11.0, 11.5, 14.5 gm.; wing 62.0 (2), 62.5 mm.; tail 41.0, 42.5 (2) mm.; tarsus 17.0 (3) mm.; culmen 14.0 (3) mm.; bill depth 4.0 (2) mm.; ♀ juvenile—weight 10.0 gm.; wing 62.5 mm.; tail 42.5 mm.; tarsus 17.5 mm.; culmen 14.0 mm.; bill depth 3.0 mm.

*Remarks:* The Whitney Expedition collected 13 males of *polymorpha* on San Cristobal, of which 7 are in the red-headed and 6 in the black-headed phase. We have 10 males (one too damaged to be sexed but clearly an adult male), all of which are in the black-headed phase: 6 are in the adult plumage with black crown and white forehead, 3 in the retarded plumage with dull brown head.

Named after Mr. G. T. C. Dennis, naturalist, who gave us invaluable help and advice on Guadalcanal.

#### REFERENCES

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